

## Pentagon Trip Memorable for Jan

By KEITH L. MARTIN

In what she described as an emotional ceremony, Afghanistan native Razia Jan presented two 9/11 quilts to officials at the Pentagon on September 11.

Jan, who operates Razia's in Duxbury Marketplace, intended to donate two quilts honoring the 184 people who died when Flight 77 struck the building two years ago, and was honored to personally attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C. at the request of Pentagon personnel.

One of the quilts honors those who died at the Pentagon and another remembers those who died aboard Flight 77. Each quilt features the biographies and photos of victims.

The ceremony at the Pentagon awarded Silver and Bronze Stars to five military personnel who had returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan. The medals are awarded to honor heroism in combat.

Jan presented her work to the officers who displayed them in the chapel and spoke about her motivation for spending eight months on both quilts.

"I told them that we are experiencing tough times and I did this work because of soldiers like them, who are laying down their lives for our safety," said Jan.

The quilts were presented in front of four stained glass windows in the chapel, one of the first areas impacted by the airplane strike. The windows,



Razia Jan displays a piece of glass recovered from the Pentagon after the 9/11 attacks. Pieces of the glass like this were used to create stained glass windows in the renovated chapel of the building.

unveiled in a ceremony earlier that day, remember 9/11 and are composed of glass recovered from the attacks.

Jan said that while most family members of those lost in the attack received glass like this, the Pentagon's chaplain also gave one to her for her contribution of the quilts.

"He said 'you are an angel' and gave it to me," she said.

Jan also said that her work was well received by other military personnel who saw the quilts after the ceremony was over.

Nearly 50 Air Force offi-

cers came to inspect the quilts on their way to a meeting and stopped to talk to Jan, with some hugging and thanking her for her work.

After their display in the chapel, the quilts will be sent to the Pentagon's quilt archives, said Jan.